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PAGE 01 STATE 004521
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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. KOREA: PAK TO PROPOSE TROOP WITHDRAWAL TIE-IN

THE SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER ADVISED AMBASSADOR SNEIDER ON JANUARY 7 THAT PRESIDENT PAK WILL RENEW HIS LONG-STANDING PROPOSAL TO NORTH KOREA FOR A MUTUAL NON-AGRESSION PACT AT HIS ANNUAL JANUARY PRESS CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO STATE THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THAT IF NORTH KOREA ACCEPTS A PROPOSAL WHICH INCLUDES THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXISTING ARMISTICE AGREEMENT, THE ROKG WILL NOT OPPOSE THE REDUCTION OF US TROOP LEVELS IN SOUTH KOREA. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT SINCE SEOUL EXPECTS THAT THE NORTH WILL ONCE AGAIN
SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 004521

TURN DOWN THE PROPOSAL, THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE WILL BE TO GIVE THE ROK A MORE FLEXIBLE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE ON THE SUBJECT OF US TROOP WITHDRAWALS. (SECRET) SEOUL 159 (EXDIS), 1/7.)

2. SOVIETS REACT TO US OFFICIALS' STATEMENTS

TASS FOREIGN INFORMATION CHIEF KORNILOV EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBASSY MOSCOW'S PRESS ATTACHE ABOUT ALLEGED ATTEMPTS BY FORD ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO INFLUENCE NEGATIVELY

THE ATTITUDE OF THE INCOMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD THE USSR. KORNILOV DESCRIBED RECENT STATEMENTS BY DEFENSE SECRETARY RUMSFELD AND CIA DIRECTOR BUSH AS "DESIGNED TO REACTIVATE THE ARMS RACE." HE SAID THE SOVIET UNION MUST TAKE A SERIOUS VIEW OF THESE STATEMENTS AS REFLECTIONS OF US POLICY, AND HE CHARACTERIZED A TASS COMMENTARY BY NOTED POLITICAL ANALYST VALENTIN ZORIN AS A SEMI-OFFICIAL SOVIET RESPONSE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: KORNILOV'S REMARKS PROVIDE FIRST-HAND CONFIRMATION THAT THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE SOVIET MEDIA THAT PRESSURE IS BEING PLACED ON THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION ARE CENTRALLY DIRECTED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 244, 1/7.)

3. PALESTINIANS: A SOVIET OFFICIAL'S VIEW

A SOVIET MFA OFFICIAL DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST TOLD EMBASSY MOSCOW THAT DEFINITE, BUT STILL "UNOFFICIAL," POLITICAL DECISIONS ARE LIKELY TO EMERGE FROM THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (PNC) MEETING IN CAIRO. HE SAID THE KEY ISSUES WILL BE:

--THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE;

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 004521

--THE DETERMINATION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF A FUTURE PALESTINIAN STATE; AND

--THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

THE OFFICIAL NOTED THAT WHILE THE PALESTINIANS HAD TO PARTICIPATE AT GENEVA, THEIR PRESENCE MIGHT NOT BE REQUIRED AT THE FIRST OF THE CONFERENCE'S TWO STAGES. HE SAID THE REAL ISSUE THERE WOULD BE THE UNREALISTIC ATTITUDE OF THE ISRAELIS, WITH MUCH DEPENDING ON THE DEGREE OF PRESSURE THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION COULD AND WOULD EXERT ON THEM. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 286, 1/7.)

4. MOROCCAN/SOVIET RELATIONS

EMBASSY RABAT REPORTS THAT DESPITE CONTINUED COOL BILATERAL RELATIONS RESULTING FROM SOVIET PARTIALITY TOWARD ALGERIA

ON THE SAHARA ISSUE, THERE HAS BEEN SOME INTENSIFICATION OF SOVIET/MOROCCAN ACTIVITY ON THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY FRONTS. NOTABLE EVENTS INCLUDE:

SECRET

--RABAT'S GRANTING AEROFLOT AN ADDITIONAL FLIGHT, CONSISTING OF A FUEL-STOP IN CASABLANCA ON THE ROUTE FROM MOSCOW TO GUINEA-BISSAU;

--A VISIT BY THE SOVIET MINISTER OF GEOLOGY; AND

--UNPUBLICIZED DISCUSSIONS WITH A VISITING SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE PERCEIVE NO MAJOR SHIFT IN MOROCCAN POLICY TOWARD THE USSR, RABAT NO LONGER SEEMS TO
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PAGE 04 STATE 004521

VIEW THE SOVIET STAND ON THE SAHARA ISSUE AS A BAR TO IMPROVED RELATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 118, 1/7)

5. JAMAICA: MANLEY GOOD ON DEMAGOGY, BAD ON ECONOMIC REALITY

EMBASSY KINGSTON REPORTS THAT PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 5 THAT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS WILL REQUIRE THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE TO ACCEPT AUSTERITY. MANLEY:

--SAID THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF THE CRISIS ARE COLONIALISM AND CAPITALISM;

--EXPRESSED HIS OPPOSITION TO DEVALUATION OF THE JAMAICAN DOLLAR AND TO THE CUTBACKS SUGGESTED BY THE IMF IN HIS "PEOPLE'S PROGRAMS;" AND

--SAID JAMAICA WILL NOT ACCEPT "ANYONE ANYWHERE" TELLING IT HOW TO RUN ITS AFFAIRS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: MANLEY'S PERFORMANCE WAS REGRETTABLY EXCELLENT DEMAGOGY; HOWEVER, HIS FAILURE TO DEAL MORE REALISTICALLY WITH THE BUDGETARY SHORTCOMINGS OF HIS LAST GOVERNMENT AND HIS REFUSAL TO TAKE OPEC'S ROLE INTO ACCOUNT SUGGEST THAT HE REALLY ISN'T PREPARED TO DEAL IN HARD TRUTHS. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINGSTON 108, 1/6.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE004521
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: HAYES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770008-0247
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770169/aaaachue.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4303b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Jul-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3637185
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, XX
To: JCS DOD MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4303b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009